

R E P O R T

OF THE

Western Sanitary Commission

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING JUNE 1st, 1863.



ST. LOUIS, MO.:

WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION ROOMS,
No. 10 North Fifth Street.

1863.

REPORT

OF THE

WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION,

ENDING JUNE 1, 1863.

It having become evident that many persons interested in the sanitary condition and needs of our Western armies do not understand the position occupied by this Commission, the extent of its field of operations, and the authority under which it acts, the following report is published for the benefit of the cause in which it is engaged, and for the information of those who may desire to coöperate in its labors:

GEN. FREMONT'S ORIGINAL ORDER.

The Western Sanitary Commission derived its first authority from the following order of Major General Fremont:

HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT,

St. Louis, Mo., September 5, 1861.

Special Orders, No. 159.]

With a view to the health and comfort of the Volunteer troops in and near to the city of St. Louis, a Sanitary Commission is hereby appointed, to consist of five gentlemen, who shall serve voluntarily, and be removable at pleasure. Its general object shall be to carry out, under the properly constituted military authorities, and in compliance with their orders, such sanitary regulations and reforms as the well-being of the soldiers demand.

This Commission shall have authority—*under the directions of the Medical Director*—to select, fit up and furnish suitable buildings for

Army and Brigade Hospitals, in such places and in such manner as circumstances require. It will attend to the selection and appointment of women nurses, under the authority and by the direction of Miss D. L. Dix, General Superintendent of the Nurses of Military Hospitals in the United States. It will co-operate with the surgeons of the several hospitals in providing male nurses, and in whatever manner practicable, and by their consent. It shall have authority to visit the different camps, to consult with the commanding officers, and the colonels and other officers of the several regiments, with regard to the sanitary and general condition of the troops, and aid them in providing proper means for the preservation of health and prevention of sickness, by supply of wholesome and well cooked food, by good systems of drainage, and other practicable methods. It will obtain from the community at large such additional means of increasing the comfort and promoting the moral and social welfare of the men, in camp and hospital, as may be needed, and cannot be furnished by Government Regulations. It will, from time to time, report directly to the Commander-in-Chief of the Department the condition of the camps and hospitals, with such suggestions as can properly be made by a Sanitary Board.

This Commission is not intended in any way to interfere with the Medical Staff, or other officers of the army, but to co-operate with them, and aid them in the discharge of their present arduous and extraordinary duties. It will be treated by all officers of the army, both regular and volunteer, in this Department, with the respect due to the humane and patriotic motives of the members, and to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief.

This Sanitary Commission will, for the present, consist of James E. Yeatman, Esq.; C. S. Greeley, Esq.; J. B. Johnson, M.D.; George Partridge, Esq., and the Rev. Wm. G. Eliot, D.D.

By order of Major General J. C. FREMONT.

J. C. KELTON, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

The authority conferred by this order was recognized and confirmed by Major General Halleck, who added Dr. S. Pollak to the Commission, and, still later, by an order from the Secretary of War, extending the field of its labors, and reappointing the members of the Commission as at first constituted.

ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJ'T GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., December 16, 1862.

Special Orders, No. 397.]

Special Orders 159, from Headquarters of the Western Department, (St. Louis, Sept. 10, 1861,) by authority of Major General Fremont, estab-

lishing a Sanitary Commission, (Western,) is hereby approved, and continued, with the privilege to said Commission of extending its labors to the camps and hospitals of any of the Western armies, under the direction of Assistant Surgeon General, Col. R. C. Wood, or the senior medical officer of the Medical Department.

The Commission will consist of the original members appointed — Jas. E. Yeatman, C. S. Greeley, J. B. Johnson, George Partridge, and W. G. Eliot — until otherwise ordered.

By order of

E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

E. D. TOWNSEND, *A. A. G.*

The intended effect of this order was to place the Western Sanitary Commission, in its field of action, upon a full equality with the United States Commission. Under this authority, the Western Commission has continued its labors, which had been previously extended, by the necessity of the case, to the armies of the Southwest Frontier, the District of East Arkansas, the armies operating on both sides of the Mississippi river, and to the Mississippi Naval Flotilla. The Western Medical Department, under the direction of Assistant Surgeon General Wood, includes all the district west of the mountains except Western Virginia, in any part of which the Western Sanitary Commission is authorized to act; but practically, with some exceptions, its labors have been directed as just stated.

ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL GRANT,

CONCERNING THE TRANSPORTATION OF SANITARY STORES.

On the 29th of March, 1863, on the application of the General Secretary of the United States Sanitary Commission, Major General Grant issued the following order, regulating the transportation of Sanitary Stores to the army under his command :

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,

Young's Point, La., March 29, 1863.

Special Orders, No. 88.]

I. The Quartermaster's Department will provide and furnish a suitable steamboat, to be called the "United States Sanitary Store Boat," and put the same in charge of the United States Sanitary Commission, to be used exclusively for the conveyance of goods calculated to prevent disease, and supplement the Government supply of Stores for the relief of the sick and wounded.

II. No person will be permitted to travel on said boat except officers of

the Army and Navy, (and they only on permits from their proper commanding officers,) discharged soldiers and employees of the Sanitary Commission. No goods whatever, for trading or commercial purposes, will be carried on said steamer, and no goods will be taken for individuals, or with any conditions which will prevent their being delivered to those most needing them in the Army or Navy.

III. The contents of all packages to be shipped on said United States Sanitary Store Boat will be inspected before shipment, by an Agent of said Sanitary Commission, at the point of shipment, unless an invoice of their contents shall have been received, the correctness of which is assured by the signature of some person of known loyalty and integrity. A statement showing what goods have been placed on board at each trip will be sent to the Medical Director of the Department at these Headquarters.

IV. A weekly statement will also be made by said Sanitary Commission to the Department Medical Director, showing what sanitary supplies have been issued by said Sanitary Commission, and to whom issued.

V. All orders from these Headquarters authorizing the *free* transportation of sanitary stores from Cairo South, on boats other than the one herein assigned for that exclusive purpose, are hereby rescinded.

By order of Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

JNO. A. RAWLINS, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

By an oversight, this order conferred exclusive privileges upon the United States Commission, and cut off all Government transportation from the Western Commission. On the effect of the order being represented to General Grant, the following amendatory order was immediately issued, extending the same privileges, in all respects, to the Western Commission, and putting both on an entirely equal footing. (See extract from Gen. Grant's Letter, p. 27.)

AMENDATORY ORDER OF GENERAL GRANT,

EXTENDING TO THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSIONS
THE SAME PRIVILEGES.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,

Milliken's Bend, La., April 11, 1863.

Special Orders, No. 101.]

The same authorities and privileges granted in Special Orders No. 88, of date Young's Point, La., March 29, 1863, from these Headquarters, to the United States Sanitary Commission, are hereby extended to the Western Sanitary Commission, as fully and completely as if the said Western

Sanitary Commission had been named conjointly in said order with said United States Sanitary Commission.

By order of Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

JNO. A. RAWLINS, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

These orders have since been modified by a General Order from the War Department at Washington, of which a further statement will be made, at the close of this report, under the head of "Arrangements for Transportation."

DISTRIBUTION OF SANITARY STORES.

Since the establishment of this Commission, (Sept. 10, 1861,) to the present date, (June 1, 1863,) there have been distributed, through its direct instrumentality, 752,938* articles of various kinds, for the comfort and health of the soldier, and the relief of suffering in the army and in the military hospitals, consisting of blankets, pillows, sheets, comforts, bed-sacks, shirts and drawers, socks, slippers, towels, handkerchiefs, dried and canned fruits, jellies, pounds of butter, pounds of zwieback, pounds of crackers, packages of farina, bushels of vegetables, bottles of wine, brandy and whisky, and many other things, which, for the sake of brevity, are not mentioned. The value of these articles is estimated at *three hundred and ninety-five thousand three hundred and thirty-five dollars and ninety-six cents.*

These articles have come mainly as the free gift of the noble women of the loyal States to their brothers in arms, and have been distributed through the agencies of this Commission to the hospitals of St. Louis and vicinity, Rolla, Sedalia, Lebanon, Springfield, Cassville, Houston, West Plains, Cape Girardeau, Pilot Knob, Mo.; Fayetteville and Helena, Ark.; Columbus, Ky.; Nashville and Memphis, Tenn.; to the hospital steamers "City of Louisiana," (since named the "R. C. Wood,") "D. A. January," "Red Rover," (Naval,) "City of Memphis," "Nashville," "Empress," "Imperial," "City of Alton," and to the Western armies in the field, in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

During the twenty-one months this Commission has been in existence *forty-two thousand seven hundred and seventy-six* sick and

* This estimate does not include the distribution of several thousands of articles previous to Nov. 1, 1861, of which no record was kept.

wounded soldiers have been inmates of the hospitals of St. Louis and the immediate vicinity, and about *thirty thousand* have been provided for on hospital steamers, or conveyed to the Northern hospitals. Besides these, there has been an aggregate number of not less than *seventy-five thousand* sick during the above period in regimental camps and in general and post hospitals, out of St. Louis, connected with the armies of the West; so that we may safely estimate that there have been *one hundred and fifty thousand* soldiers, at some time sick or wounded, who have been the recipients of kindnesses from their friends, in the loyal States, through this Commission, to say nothing of the rest of the army, who have received liberal supplies of vegetables, and other articles, for the prevention of disease and the health and comfort of the troops.

CASH EXPENDITURES FOR SANITARY PURPOSES.

During the same period there have been expended in money, for the purposes of the Commission, one hundred and forty-six thousand four hundred and sixty-four dollars and thirty cents, as follows:

For Hospital supplies	\$103,132 58
“ Freights and transportation	2,949 93
“ Outfits and furnishing of hospitals	4,601 56
“ Making hospital clothing*	4,907 50
“ Army and Navy hospital steamers.....	9,679 98
“ Soldiers' Home, St. Louis.	4,684 30
“ “ “ Columbus, Ky.....	1,450 00
“ “ “ Memphis, Tenn.....	1,550 00
“ Contract surgeons, dressers and nurses.....	4,659 59
“ Distributing agents in the field	2,718 29
“ Office clerks' and registrars' salaries.....	2,148 52
“ Rent of office and store rooms	1,006 25
“ Labor in warehouse	1,298 82
“ Office and warehouse expenses.	387 44
“ Postage	365 29
“ Advertising and printing.....	617 70
“ Telegraphic communications ...	138 91
“ Stationery.....	167 64
Total	\$146,464 30
Estimated value of sanitary stores received and distributed by the Commission	395,335 96
Total amount distributed.....	\$541,800 26

* This work was given out to soldiers' wives in this city, affording them employment and the means of self-support.

The entire expense of distribution, including rents, salaries, and agencies of every kind, is $1\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. of the above amount during the whole period of the labors of the Commission, as follows:

TOTAL EXPENSES OF DISTRIBUTION.

For Distributing and relief agents in the field.....	\$2,718 29
“ Office clerks’ and registrars’ salaries*	2,148 52
“ Rent of office and store rooms†.....	1,006 25
“ Labor in warehouse.....	1,298 82
“ Office and warehouse expenses.....	387 44
“ Postage	365 29
“ Advertising and printing	617 70
“ Telegraphic communications	138 91
“ Stationery	167 64
Total expenses.....	\$8,848 86

Being $1\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. of the whole amount received and distributed by the Commission.

CASH DONATIONS RECEIVED.

Besides the large contributions in sanitary goods, the Commission has received in money, from the friends of this cause in the several loyal States, the sum of *one hundred and forty-four thousand two hundred and fifty-six dollars and fifty-eight cents*, as follows:

From Massachusetts.....	\$50,055 45
“ California†	50,395 00
“ Missouri.....	25,244 10
“ “ of \$50,000 appropriated for the benefit of Missouri troops	10,000 00
	<i>Carried over, \$135,694 55</i>

* Neither the President nor Treasurer, nor any other member of the Commission, receives any compensation, direct or indirect, for services rendered. They have themselves acted as visitors and inspectors of hospitals, as far as seemed necessary. The Commission employs no salaried inspectors, as it has found the regular inspections made by the Medical Department at the West so thorough that this expenditure has been saved. But on this point difference of judgment may very well exist.

† This Commission has always paid its own rents, which, if deducted from the account of expenses, would considerably reduce the already small per centage which the cost of distribution makes of the whole amount distributed.

‡ This amount was sent directly to the Western Sanitary Commission. No part of the funds sent to the United States Commission has been appropriated to this Commission, although our letters from California had led us to expect such a result.

	<i>Bro't over,</i>	\$135,694 55
From New York.....		11,522 46
“ Iowa		2,216 00
“ Illinois		1,050 13
“ Pennsylvania.....		160 60
“ Michigan		61 41
“ Wisconsin.....		39 00
“ Connecticut		100 00
“ New Hampshire.....		25 00
“ Ohio		5 43
“ Maine		6 60
“ England		500 00
Total		\$151,381 18

HOSPITALS OF ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY.

When the Western Sanitary Commission was first organized, September 5th, 1861, there were but two Military Hospitals in this city and vicinity, namely, the old Post Hospital at Jefferson Barracks, and the New House of Refuge Hospital, the former twelve miles south of St. Louis, and the latter about two miles south-west of the Arsenal. The latter had been partially fitted up in the early part of the month of August, to meet the necessities of a rapidly increasing army, already subjected to the influences of a change of climate, and the exposures of camp life, and furnishing its proportion of wounded men from the early battle-fields of Missouri, Dug Spring, Carthage, Springfield, Lexington and Belmont.

After the battle of Wilson's Creek, August 12th, 1861, all the available wards of the St. Louis Hospital, (kept by the Sisters of Charity,) and of the City Hospital, (civil institution) were taken and filled with patients. But these accommodations were found wholly inadequate to meet the necessities of the case.

Almost the first service required of the Western Sanitary Commission was the fitting up, under the direction of medical director Surgeon DeCamp, additional hospitals for the reception of the sick and wounded of the new volunteer army. In the course of the months of September and October, the following hospitals were established, furnished and filled with patients, namely, the *General Hospital*, corner of Fifth and Chesnut streets; the *Post Hospital*, and two *Convalescent Hospitals*, at Benton Barracks; the *Good Samaritan Hospital*, (formerly a private institution); the *Fourth-street Hospital*, and the *Pacific Hospital*.

At a later period, under the direction of Dr. J. B. B. Wright,

and Dr. Madison Mills, Medical Directors, the *Marine Hospital* and *Jefferson Barracks* were converted into military hospitals; the *Small Pox Hospital*, on Duncan's Island, was enlarged, and the *Hickory-street* and *Gratiot-street* (or *Military Prison*) *Hospitals* were established, and still later the *Post Hospital* of *Schofield Barracks*. Accommodations were thus provided for about *eight thousand* patients.

During the winter of the present year, under the wise and humane directions of the medical authorities in this department, Assistant Surgeon General, Col. R. C. Wood, and Surgeons Madison Mills and D. L. Magruder, Medical Directors, two other excellent and commodious hospitals have been fitted up, one at Benton Barracks and the other on the corner of Broadway and Carr street, called the *Benton Barracks Hospital*, and the *Lawson Hospital*. The former was constructed by enclosing the amphitheatre at the Fair Grounds, putting in floors, and adding the necessary conveniences; every part was also thoroughly whitewashed, the shaded grounds renovated, and the other buildings upon the grounds were converted into officers and nurses' quarters, medical and commissary store rooms, quarters of the invalid corps, &c., &c. These changes were devised and authorized by Assistant Surgeon General Col. Wood, and carried into effect under the direction of Dr. Ira Russell, the Surgeon in charge, and the result is one of the largest, best ventilated, and well conducted hospitals in the United States, capable of accommodating from two to three thousand patients. A further description of this hospital, with an engraving, will be given in a succeeding report.

The *Lawson Hospital* is also commodious and well ventilated, and will accommodate six hundred patients.

These new and superior hospital accommodations have enabled the medical department to dispense with the *Fourth-street Hospital*, the *Pacific Hospital*, the *St. Louis* and *City Hospitals*. The *Virginia Hotel* was fitted up for hospital purposes, in anticipation of a supposed necessity, but has not been used. It is still held in case of an emergency, and the use of the *Fourth-street Hospital* can also be resumed, should circumstances require.

The present accommodations of the hospitals of St. Louis and vicinity are sufficient for eight thousand patients, and ten thousand could be comfortably provided for, should any great emergency arise.

All these hospitals are furnished with excellent beds, are provided with experienced Surgeons and Nurses, and are unsurpassed for cleanliness and good management; and four of them, the *Jefferson Barracks*, *New House of Refuge*, the *Marine Hospital*, and *Benton Barracks Hospital*, are unequalled for their beautiful situation and surroundings, their excellent ventilation, and free circulation of pure air, and the rapid and sure recovery of all curable patients brought to them for treatment, the percentage of deaths of the whole number admitted being exceedingly small at the New House of Refuge and the new hospital at Benton Barracks—namely, $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The Western Sanitary Commission is less drawn upon for supplies for these hospitals than formerly. Being now thoroughly organized, and under the direction of the higher authorities of the medical department, almost every thing that is needed is obtained from the Government. Requisitions for many articles, however, are still made upon the Commission, and all female nurses receive their appointment from the President of the Commission by a delegated authority in him.

With the present excellent management of the St. Louis Hospitals, the Commission has been able to direct its attention more and more to the needs of our armies in the field, and to the wounded, where battles occur, furnishing supplies, and such additional force of Surgeons and Nurses as the occasion requires.

The following statistics of the Hospitals of St. Louis and vicinity will give some idea of the labors of the medical department, and of the "home field" of this Commission in the care of the sick and wounded of our army, and will also embody useful information.

NEW HOUSE OF REFUGE HOSPITAL.

This institution is situated about two miles southwest of the St. Louis Arsenal, in the open country. The building is a large brick edifice, four stories high, with ample halls and piazzas, high ceilings, large and numerous windows, free circulation of air, provided with pure rain water from ample cisterns, having pleasant grounds, and a cheerful and beautiful prospect in every direction. It has accommodations for 568 patients. The present Surgeon in charge is Dr. A. E. HAMMER, U. S. V. Acting Assistant Surgeons: H B. DWELLE, M.D., LOUIS BECK, M.D., WILLIAM FRITZ, M.D., BERNAYS, M.D., H. S. LEFFINGWELL, M.D. Chaplain: Rev. — DOEHN.

STATISTICS.

New House of Refuge Hospital opened August 6th, 1861.

Whole number of patients received to June 1, 1863.....	8,037
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	4,577
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	1,233
“ “ “ transferred to other hospitals.....	326
“ “ “ furloughed.....	990
“ “ “ deserted.....	86
“ “ “ remaining.....	316
“ “ “ died.....	500
Per centage of deaths.....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$

CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL,

CORNER OF FIFTH AND CHESNUT STREETS.

This is a large, marble-front building, five stories high, with basement, having accommodations for 460 patients. It has been in charge of Surgeon J. T. HODGEN, U. S. V., from the beginning. Acting Assistant Surgeons: WM. A. McMURRAY, M.D., W. H. D. NOYES, M.D., STEPHEN R. GAY, M.D., OSCAR BLANK, M.D., A. F. BARNES, M.D. Chaplain: WM. H. CORKHILL.

STATISTICS.

This Hospital was opened September 10th, 1861.

Whole number of patients received to June 1, 1863.....	6,391
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	1,981
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	886
“ “ “ furloughed.....	572
“ “ “ transferred to other hospitals.....	529
“ “ “ deserted.....	77
“ “ “ remaining.....	282
“ “ “ died.....	925
Per centage of deaths.....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ *

GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL.

This hospital is situated in the northwest part of the city, north of St. Charles road, and west of Pratt avenue. It is a new brick edifice, four stories high, and will accommodate about 150 patients. On the 26th of March last, its character was changed into a *Military Eye and Ear Infirmary*, and the institution placed in charge of Surgeon WM. DICKINSON, U. S. V.; Acting Assistant Surgeon, CHARLES A. WARNER, U. S. A.

* This large per centage of deaths at this Hospital is owing to the great number of almost hopeless cases sent there, of the sick, because of its convenient location, and of the wounded for surgical operations.

STATISTICS.

Hospital opened September 10th, 1861.

Whole number of patients received to March 26, 1863.....	2,127
“ “ “ returned to duty	1,123
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	260
“ “ “ furloughed	93
“ “ “ transferred to other hospitals.....	387
“ “ “ deserted.....	16
“ “ “ died	248
Per centage of deaths	12 $\frac{4}{10}$ *

GOOD SAMARITAN EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

This Hospital was opened March 26th, 1863.

Whole number of patients received to June 1st, 1863.....	89
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	9
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	0
“ “ “ furloughed	2
“ “ “ deserted.....	1
“ “ “ remaining	70
“ “ “ died	0

MARINE HOSPITAL.

This institution is situated half a mile below the Arsenal, near the bank of the Mississippi, in a beautiful and healthy locality, overlooking the river and country for many miles. It is built of stone and brick, is four stories high, surrounded by extensive grounds, partly cultivated by convalescent patients as a kitchen garden, and has excellent arrangements, good ventilation and every condition for the speedy recovery of the sick. It has accommodations for 150 patients, and is in charge of Assistant Surgeon JAMES H. PEABODY, U. S. V.; Acting Assistant Surgeon, L. H. CALLOWAY; Chaplain, JAS. A. PAIGE.

STATISTICS.

This Hospital was opened May 4th, 1862.

Whole number of patients received to June 1, 1863.....	938
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	441
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	183

* The per centage of deaths at this hospital was considerably increased by its being made a hospital for measles, which, during the fall and winter of 1861-2, were frequently followed by pneumonia.

Whole number of patients furloughed.....	60
“ “ “ transferred to other hospitals.....	20
“ “ “ deserted	20
“ “ “ remaining.....	138
“ “ “ died.....	76
Per centage of deaths.....	8 $\frac{1}{10}$

JEFFERSON BARRACKS HOSPITAL.

This institution is situated about twelve miles below St. Louis, on the west bank of the Mississippi river, in the midst of beautiful scenery, and the pure and fresh air of the country. It consists of the buildings formerly used as a barracks for the regular troops at this station, which are very airy, and form a long row of one and two story houses, surrounding a large plat of ground, on three sides of a square, with one end open to the river. Both on the outer and inner sides of these houses are wide piazzas running the whole length of the square, and trees are planted along the walks. The rooms are long and high, with large windows on the inner and outer sides, through which a perfect ventilation is obtained, and the whole series of buildings is fitted up with iron bedsteads, (as nearly all the hospitals now are,) and with every convenience necessary for the sick and wounded. Three triple rows of new buildings, 600 feet long, divided into wards of 300 feet each, have been erected a little west of the barracks, on well shaded and beautiful grounds, at convenient distances apart, greatly enlarging the accommodations of this hospital, and making it one among the noblest institutions in the United States. These buildings are so arranged that each group has the central row appropriated to a dining room, and surgeons', nurses' and stewards' quarters, being equally convenient to the other buildings of the group. Besides these improvements, a system of water-works is being introduced, by which all the buildings will be abundantly supplied. The entire accommodation of this hospital is sufficient for 2,500 patients. The institution is in charge of Surgeon J. F. RANDOLPH, U. S. A., assisted by Surgeon J. H. GROVE, U. S. V., and by P. C. McLANE, M.D., A. L. ALLEN, M.D., G. W. COVEY, M.D., T. W. McARTHUR, M.D., T. F. RUMBOLD, M.D., and S. HEMMENWAY, M.D., Acting Assistant Surgeons; Post Chaplain, J. F. FISH; Hospital Chaplain, S. PETTIGREW.

STATISTICS.

This Hospital was opened April 30th, 1862.

Whole number of patients received to June 1, 1863.....	6,412
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	2,061

Whole number of patients discharged from service.....	1,841
“ “ “ transferred to other hospitals.....	389
“ “ “ furloughed	923
“ “ “ deserted.....	91
“ “ “ joined Invalid corps.....	142
“ “ “ remaining.....	226
“ “ “ died.....	739
Per centage of deaths.....	11½*

HICKORY STREET HOSPITAL.

This institution is situated on Hickory street, in the southern part of St. Louis, and consists of two three-story dwelling houses, adjoining each other. It has accommodations for 90 patients, and is in charge of Surgeon FRANK W. WHITE, U. S. V.; Assistant Surgeon, H. F. GILBERT, U. S. V.

STATISTICS.

This Hospital was opened February 1st, 1862.

Whole number of patients received to June 1, 1863.....	1,826
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	1,525
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	80
“ “ “ furloughed	15
“ “ “ deserted.....	26
“ “ “ transferred to other hospitals.....	68
“ “ “ remaining.....	90
“ “ “ died.....	112
Per centage of deaths.....	6½

BENTON BARRACKS HOSPITAL.

This institution is situated in the Fair Grounds of the St. Louis Agricultural Society, about three miles north-west of the city, and north of the St. Charles road. The main edifice comprises the amphitheatre of the Fair Grounds, enclosed, floored, divided into wards, and constituting a circular building, one thousand feet in circumference, and three hundred and thirty feet in diameter, with a large circular space in the centre, open to the sky and air. It has been thoroughly fitted up for the purposes to which it is now devoted, and is divided into wards, provided with water, and every way adapted to the care of the sick. Numerous other buildings,

* During the first six months' occupancy of this hospital, a large number were brought to it in a dying condition, suffering not only from severe disease, but from effects of long exposure.

used by the Agricultural Society for its exhibitions, are made subordinate to the main edifice; and the beautiful and ample grounds and grateful shade of forest trees make this hospital altogether one of the most desirable for the sick and wounded soldiers in the whole West. It has accommodations ordinarily for 2,000, and, on emergencies, for 2,500 patients; and is in charge of Surgeon IRA RUSSELL, U. S. V.; Acting Assistant Surgeons E. L. HERRIOT, M.D., B. F. GILMAN, M.D., A. MONTGOMERY, M.D., D. M. REED, M.D., P. D. MARSHALL, M.D., E. BERNER, M.D., J. Z. HALL, M.D., J. C. STODDARD, M.D., E. FLYNN, M.D.; Surgeon DAVID LEROY, U. S. V.; Assistant Surgeon E. L. PHILLIPS, U. S. V.; Assistant Surgeon WM. T. DAY, U. S. V. Chaplain, S. P. IVES.

STATISTICS. *

This Hospital was opened in its present character, March 1, 1863.

Whole number patients rec'd from March 1, 1863, to June 1, 1863,.	2,042
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	621
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	421
“ “ “ furloughed.....	19
“ “ “ deserted.....	55
“ “ “ remaining.....	1,097
“ “ “ died.....	85
Per centage of deaths	41 ⁸ / ₈ *

LAWSON HOSPITAL.

This institution is situated on the corner of Broadway and Carr street. The edifice was originally intended for a hotel; is seven stories high, and very commodious, affording accommodations for six hundred patients. The Western Sanitary Commission has furnished this hospital with a steam engine and elevator, at an expense of \$2,500. The institution is in charge of Surgeon C. T. ALEXANDER, U. S. A.; Acting Assistant Surgeons DONALD MCLEAN, M.D., W. H. BRADLEY, M.D., J. C. MORTON, M.D., T. CUNNINGHAM, M.D., DAVID O. FARRON, M.D. Chaplain, MONTGOMERY SCHUYLER, D.D.

* There were formerly at Benton Barracks a *Post Hospital* and two *Convalescent Hospitals*, which were superseded by the present Benton Barracks Hospital. About 6,500 patients were treated in these hospitals.

STATISTICS.

This Hospital was opened January 17, 1863.

Whole number of patients received up to June 1, 1863.....	809
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	31
“ “ “ discharged from the service.....	114
“ “ “ transferred to other hospitals.....	24
“ “ “ furloughed	42
“ “ “ remaining.....	418
“ “ “ died	209
Per centage of deaths.....	25 $\frac{9}{10}$ *

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

This institution is situated on Duncan's Island, in the Mississippi river, near the Missouri shore, opposite the Arsenal. The buildings are of wood, thoroughly white-washed, and the accommodations, including tents, sufficient for 250 patients. It has been in charge, from the beginning till quite recently, of ELLSWORTH SMITH, M.D., and is now in charge of Acting Assistant Surgeon S. W. ADREON.

STATISTICS.

This institution was opened as a Military Hospital Oct. 20, 1861.

Whole number of patients received to June 1, 1863.....	871
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	443
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	13
“ “ “ furloughed.....	—
“ “ “ remaining	53
“ “ “ died	200
Per centage of deaths	22 $\frac{9}{10}$

PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE ABOVE HOSPITAL

Of the above, whole number of prisoners received.....	162
“ “ returned to Provost Marshal	95
“ “ deserted	10
“ “ remaining.....	1
“ “ died.....	56
Per centage of deaths.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ †

* This large per centage of deaths at this new hospital is owing to the fact that it received the wounded from the battles of Vicksburg and Arkansas Post, last winter, and the sick from Milliken's Bend and Helena, which were of the worst description, having many hopeless cases both of wounds and of chronic diarrhœa, some of whom died as they were being brought into the hospital.

† Greater mortality of prisoners owing to the neglected and exhausted condition in which they fell into our hands.

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS POST HOSPITAL.

This building is situated on Chouteau avenue. The hospital has accommodations for forty-three patients, and is in charge of Surgeon F. W. WHITE; Acting Assistant Surgeon SENTER, M.D.

STATISTICS.

This Hospital was opened Feb. 19, 1863.

Whole number of patients received to June 1, 1863.....	206
“ “ “ returned to duty.....	112
“ “ “ discharged from service.....	—
“ “ “ furloughed	—
“ “ “ deserted.....	—
“ “ “ remaining	17
“ “ “ died.....	9
Per centage of deaths.....	$4\frac{3}{10}$

MILITARY PRISON HOSPITAL.

This hospital is in a part of the McDowell College, or military prison, on Gratiot street, and its patients are rebel prisoners. It has accommodations for 320 patients, and is in charge of Surgeon GEORGE H. HOOD, U. S. V.

STATISTICS.

From July 1, 1862, to June 1, 1863.*

Whole number of patients received between the above dates.....	1,562
“ “ “ remaining in hospital.....	135
“ “ “ died.....	231
Per centage of deaths.....	$14\frac{7}{10}\dagger$

FLOATING HOSPITALS.

Soon after the battles commenced on our Western rivers, in the spring of 1862, the idea of converting steamboats into hospitals was first suggested by Surgeon Simmons, Medical Director of Gen. Grant's Army, that the wounded might be more immediately and better cared for, and brought more comfortably and safely to the hospitals provided for them, away from the scene of conflict. The idea was cordially approved by Major General Halleck, then commanding the Western Department, and by the medical authorities, and was immediately carried into effect.

* No reports can be found back of that date.

† A considerable number of the patients in this hospital arrive in a very exhausted condition from previous neglect and ill clothing.

HOSPITAL STEAMER "R. C. WOOD."

This hospital boat was originally called the "*City of Louisiana*," and was the first chartered for this service. The Government supplied her with beds and commissary stores, and the Western Sanitary Commission completed her outfit, at an expense of \$3,000, and furnished the Assistant Surgeons, the Apothecary, and male and female nurses, supplying her also with sanitary stores. She conveyed 3,389 patients from Pittsburg Landing, and other points on the western rivers, to northern hospitals, and was afterwards released from the service during the summer of 1862.

This boat has recently been purchased by the Government, remodelled for a permanent hospital boat, with accommodations for 500 patients, and named the "*R. C. Wood*," in honor of the Assistant Surgeon General of the U. S. A., stationed in this Department, to whose wisdom, humanity and constant foresight many improvements in our hospital arrangements are due.

The "*R. C. Wood*" is of great speed, and of ample dimensions. Her state rooms have been removed, and the whole upper deck made into one large ward, with abundant light admitted, and excellent means of ventilation, with ample provision of bath rooms, hot and cold water, cooking apartments, nurses' rooms, dispensary, laundry, and many other conveniences. She is in charge of Surgeon THOMAS F. AZPELL, U. S. V.

HOSPITAL STEAMER "D. A. JANUARY."

This large steamer was purchased by the Government, remodelled for a floating hospital, thoroughly furnished, and put in charge of Surgeon A. H. HOFF, U. S. V. Previous to last August she had made eight trips, and conveyed 2,692 patients from points on the Tennessee and lower Mississippi rivers to northern hospitals. Since that date, she has been constantly in this service, and has removed many thousands from the army in the same manner. To Surgeon Hoff we are largely indebted for great improvements in hospital steamers.

NAVAL HOSPITAL BOAT "RED ROVER."

This is a fine, large steamer, captured from the enemy at Island No. 10, and converted into a hospital boat. She was remodelled in her cabin arrangements and refitted by the Government, and her outfit was furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission at

an expense of \$3,500. She is in charge of Assistant Surgeon G. H. BIXBY, U. S. N., and is permanently attached to the Mississippi Naval Flotilla.

HOSPITAL STEAMER "CITY OF MEMPHIS."

This is a large and splendid steamer, converted into a hospital boat by the Government, and running regularly between the army on the lower Mississippi and the hospitals at Memphis and further north. She was in charge of Surgeon W. D. TURNER, U. S. A., until about a month ago, and has conveyed nearly twelve thousand sick and wounded soldiers. She is at present in charge of Surgeon S. A. SPRAGUE, U. S. A.

FLOATING HOSPITAL "CITY OF NASHVILLE."

This large floating hospital is permanently located near Milliken's Bend, for the uses of the sick of Gen. GRANT's army, and is capable of accommodating 1,000 patients. She was placed in charge of Surgeon L. D. STRAWBRIDGE, U. S. A.

TEMPORARY HOSPITAL STEAMERS.

The steamer "*Empress*" was, for a time, used as a hospital boat, made six trips on the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers, and conveyed 3,375 patients.

The steamer "*Imperial*" was chartered by the President of the Western Sanitary Commission, received her outfit under his direction and supervision, partly from the Government, but mainly from the Commission. She was in charge of Surgeon J. H. GROVE, U. S. V., and during the two months she was in the service she conveyed 2,375 patients.

The steamer "*City of Alton*," a large and splendid vessel, made several trips as a hospital boat, and is again temporarily in the same service.

The magnificent steamer "*Ruth*," and several other boats of smaller dimensions, were used last winter in bringing the wounded from the first battle at Vicksburg, and from the battle of Arkansas Post. As emergencies required, other transports were used, on which there was no suitable provision for the sick and wounded, and much suffering and many deaths were the consequence; but such want of preparation and negligence is not likely to occur again.

FLOATING HOSPITAL AT HELENA, ARK.

The Government is now building a floating hospital, to be sta-

tioned at Helena, Ark., from plans submitted by the President of the Western Sanitary Commission. The low and marshy grounds, and the malaria of that region, are so unfavorable to the recovery of the sick, that a hospital upon the river, with its fresh currents of pure air, will have many advantages over those in town.

FEMALE NURSES.

Lately the experiment has been tried of giving to female nurses a full opportunity of usefulness, under the intelligent and humane direction of Surgeon IRA RUSSELL, in charge of Benton Barracks Hospital. Hitherto many Surgeons have entirely neglected to respect the order of Surgeon General WM. A. HAMMOND, U. S. A. in which he says :

“The army regulations allow one nurse to every ten patients (beds) in a general hospital. As it is the expressed will of the Government that a portion of those nurses shall be women, and as Congress has given to the Surgeon General authority to decide in what numbers women shall be substituted for men, it is ordered that there shall be one woman nurse to two men nurses. Medical officers are hereby required to organize their respective hospitals accordingly.”

Many of the female nurses, who have entered this service, have been persons of the highest character, and prompted by the noblest motives of patriotism and humanity. Generally those receiving their appointment from the President of this Commission have proved themselves worthy of the noble cause in which they have been engaged, and in only a few instances have any been found unworthy. In all cases applicants are required to produce testimonials of good moral character and fitness for the service.

It is to be much regretted that this disinterested and most useful class of nurses, engaged in a service in which woman is peculiarly fitted to excel, have not always been properly appreciated and their position sufficiently respected by the Surgeons in charge ; while in other instances the service of female nurses has been brought into disrepute, by the employment of persons of unsuitable character on the part of Surgeons, without requiring of them a previous appointment from the proper authority, as required by the orders of the Medical Department.

REGISTRATION OF THE SICK IN HOSPITALS.

As the Commission was constantly applied to for information

concerning invalid and wounded soldiers, at what hospitals they might be found, and concerning the death and places of burial of others, it has for more than a year kept a registry at its rooms, and secured from the hospitals of St. Louis and vicinity daily reports of all who are received, returned to their regiments, discharged, or have died, so that thousands of their anxious friends are able to obtain the desired information concerning them.

SOLDIERS' HOMES.

The attention of the Commission was called, at an early period, to the situation of many soldiers returning home from the army on furlough, or discharged from the service, and of others returning to their regiments, arriving in our large cities and centres of travel without the means of paying hotel expenses, often falling into bad associations, or suffering neglect for want of a home.

SOLDIER'S HOME AT ST. LOUIS.

On the 12th of March, 1862, the Commission established its first Soldier's Home, in a central part of this city, (29 South Fourth street,) furnished it with comfortable beds, and put it in charge of Rev. Charles Peabody, with Miss A. L. Ostram as Matron, who was afterwards transferred to the Home at Memphis. During this period thousands of soldiers, passing through this city, have found here a comfortable resting place and Christian hospitality, without charge, and have received important aid and information about their papers, in obtaining their pay, and transportation between their regiments and their homes. This Home has accommodations for from sixty to a hundred soldiers, and entertains on an average about thirty a day. Mr. Peabody still remains in charge, and has conducted it most successfully from the beginning.

STATISTICS.

Whole number of soldiers lodged up to June 1, 1863	14,350
“ “ lodgings furnished	16,886
“ “ meals furnished.....	52,942

The expenses of the institution have thus far been about \$6,000, of which \$4,684.30 have been paid by the Commission. Rations are furnished by the Government for the average number of soldiers entertained, and potatoes, butter and dried fruit are furnished by the Commission.

SOLDIER'S HOME AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

On the 13th of February last the Commission, finding the same needs for discharged and invalid soldiers at Memphis, opened a Home in that city, under the charge of Mr. O. E. Waters, with Miss A. L. Ostram as Matron. The building and grounds of this institution are situated in the suburbs of Memphis, about a mile from the river, and were the former property and residence of a rebel officer. This building was turned over to this Commission by Gen. T. C. Hamilton. The mansion is large and contains many large rooms, a great hall, a front porch, a large piazza in the rear, used in summer for dining purposes, and an excellent kitchen. The grounds comprise about six acres, three of which form a handsome lawn in front, shaded with beautiful trees, and three are cultivated for a garden.

Only discharged and invalid soldiers are received at this Home, the Government having provided a place of entertainment at Fort Pickering for furloughed soldiers. The Superintendent of the Home keeps an ambulance, and conveys his invalid guests to and fro between the river, the railroad depot, and his place of entertainment. He also gives much aid to them in getting their papers corrected and obtaining their pay, and placing them comfortably on steamers on their departure. While remaining with him they enjoy the pleasant home and grounds exceedingly, and often exclaim, on their arrival, "Well, this seems more like *home* than any place I have seen since I enlisted." They are often quite reluctant to leave. In three instances invalid soldiers have died here, laying aside, with resignation and trust, the armor which they had put on for country and liberty. Others have been picked up in a helpless condition in the streets and brought to the Home.

The mansion and grounds of this Home are without cost to the Commission or the Government, rations for the average number of guests are furnished by the Commissary, and the whole expense of the institution for three months is \$1,550, including repairs, furniture, and the salaries of those who conduct it. Of this amount, \$50 was donated by Mr. Irvine, Agent for the State of Illinois, and \$100 by Mrs. Gov. Harvey, Agent for the State of Wisconsin.

STATISTICS.

Whole number of guests entertained from Feb. 13 to May 1, 1863...	690
“ “ lodgings furnished.....	1,976
“ “ meals “	4,089

SOLDIER'S LODGE AT MEMPHIS.

A temporary "Lodge," and ware-room for sanitary stores, has been fitted up, near the steamboat landing, by the United States Sanitary Commission, and furnished with beds by the Western Sanitary Commission, where the discharged and invalid soldier, arriving at night, can find temporary rest, and afterwards be transferred to the Home. The intention is that the two institutions shall work together, and be, to a certain extent, under the same direction and management, since both Commissions are laboring in the same great cause, and with the same end in view.

SOLDIER'S HOME AT COLUMBUS, KENTUCKY.

About the same time the Soldier's Home was established at Memphis, the President of the Commission also visited Columbus, Ky., and found the same needs existing there. The result was the establishment of the Home at that military post, at first under Mr. Wyeth, afterwards in charge of Rev. E. Nute, Jr., with Mrs. S. A. Plummer as Matron, and Miss Ida Johnson as Assistant Matron. The same friendly offices to the discharged and invalid soldier are performed here as at St. Louis and Memphis, and the institution has been exceedingly useful and well conducted; its expenses thus far have been \$1450.

STATISTICS.

Whole number of soldiers entertained up to June 1, 1863.....	10,541
Whole number of meals furnished	16,294
Number of rations cooked for soldiers to take with them on leaving, during April and May.....	1,204

The whole number of soldiers entertained at these Homes, from their establishment to the 1st of June 1863, was 25,581; the whole number of lodgings furnished was 30,852; and the whole number of meals supplied was 73,325.

OFFICERS' HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS.

During a visit of the President of this Commission to the army, last winter, he found on his return the *Officers' Hospital* at Memphis unprovided with beds, and without the common comforts of an ordinary hospital. Many wounded officers were without the means (having been a long time without pay) to provide for themselves. Under these circumstances he provided an entire outfit for a hospital of one hundred beds, with furniture and other necessa-

ries; and a supply of sanitary stores has recently been forwarded to this institution.

AGENCY AT HELENA, ARKANSAS.

On the arrival of the Army of the South-west at Helena, Ark., under Major General Curtis, July 13, 1862, the Western Commission immediately established one of its agents, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, at that post, with a depôt of sanitary stores, which in the way-worn and destitute condition of that army, after its toilsome march through Arkansas, was greatly needed. A liberal distribution was made of hospital clothing, of wines, jellies and stimulants for the sick, and of towels, handkerchiefs, socks, combs, &c., to the well—articles which they could not obtain at Helena.

During the last fall and winter there was much sickness at this post, in camps and hospitals, and the supplies of Mr. Plattenburg were largely drawn upon. Generous supplies of vegetables have also been sent this spring, there being a scarcity at that point. These were found to be essential to the army, for the cure and prevention of scorbutic diseases.

From Helena, in January last, Mr. Plattenburg went down with large supplies of sanitary goods to General Sherman's army, after the first battles at Vicksburg, which he distributed freely to the army and to the wounded on the hospital steamers; and in March last, when General Grant's army had gone below, he moved his depôt of stores to Milliken's Bend. What remained of the army at Helena has been supplied since that date through other agencies of the Commission, and by the United States Commission, through its agent Dr. Fithian, to whom the Western Commission has also sent supplies.

INCIDENTAL AGENCY FOR THE FREED PEOPLE AT HELENA.

An incidental work for the suffering "contrabands," or freed people, of Helena, from whom a regiment of soldiers has been recruited and another is now in progress, devolved upon the Commission, and has been chiefly attended to by one of its members. At the opening of the past winter, the accounts of the suffering of these people made so strong an appeal to Christian sympathy that the Commission sent down to Helena Miss Maria R. Mann, as an agent, with clothing and sanitary stores to improve the condition of their hospital, and otherwise give them relief and assistance. Her labors there have been very useful, and great improvement

has been the result. A large and comfortable hospital has been fitted up and furnished for them, with surgeons and nurses to attend upon the sick; and the mortality, which was fearfully great in the winter, has been very much diminished. This institution is now placed on the same footing with other military hospitals.

A new camp for women and children, and the infirm, has been commenced, and the adjoining lands assigned to them for gardens and cultivation, under the direction of a superintendent. Several schools have recently been opened for these people, and Miss Mann will remain as long as she feels that she can be useful to them, and her health will permit. Many discouragements at this Post have always attended every effort to improve the condition of the freed people, and do still exist, but it is a source of much satisfaction that something has been done.

Since this work commenced, over *one thousand dollars* have been specially contributed by friends in New England to carry it on, and is kept as a separate fund for this purpose in the hands of Rev. Dr. Eliot, to whom further donations for the same object may at any time be forwarded.

AGENCY AT MILLIKEN'S BEND AND VICKSBURG.

During the month of March, after the army of Gen. Grant had gone down to commence operations against Vicksburg, the Commission felt the importance of having a depôt of sanitary stores near at hand, and Mr. Plattenburg was accordingly directed to remove to Milliken's Bend. Since that date, he has been kept constantly supplied with whatever was needed for the health of the army, and the comfort of the sick and wounded soldiers. On the 1st of May, the Medical Director of General Grant's Army, Surgeon M. Mills, turned over to Mr. Plattenburg a hospital barge, for the keeping of sanitary stores, similar to one previously provided for the U. S. Commission, and in all other respects the two Commissions have been furnished with the same privileges and opportunities of carrying out their benevolent work.

On the 26th ult., on hearing of the several battles of General Grant, in the rear of Vicksburg, the President of the Commission went down with the steamer "Champion," carrying with him a large amount of sanitary stores, accompanied by skillful surgeons and competent nurses, numbering over fifty, to render every possible assistance. The nurses were employed and paid by this Commission. His visit accomplished great good, and the depôt of

supplies was furnished anew, having been completely exhausted by the sudden demand. He left Mr. Plattenburg engaged in the work of distribution wherever sanitary stores were needed.

AGENCY AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

During the last fifteen months, the Commission has kept its agents, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, Rev. F. R. Newell, and others, with the Army of the South-west and of the Frontier, and has kept depôts of sanitary goods at Springfield, Mo., and elsewhere. After the battle of Pea Ridge, Mr. Plattenburg went with the army of Maj. Gen. Curtis through Arkansas to Helena, and became stationed there. On the 20th of last December, Mr. Newell arrived at Springfield and remained there till the battle of Prairie Grove, when he proceeded at once to Fayetteville, Ark., where were gathered the wounded and sick consequent upon that desperately-fought battle, numbering about one thousand. Here he distributed his supplies, and remained for a time under the direction of Surgeon Ira Russell, the Medical Director, laboring in various ways for the relief of the suffering. The supplies thus furnished, and the labors of Mr. Newell, were gratefully received and highly appreciated by the surgeons and the brave Army of the Frontier.

SOLDIERS' MANUAL FOR THE CAMP AND HOSPITAL.

A large edition of a "Treatise on the preservation of the Health of the Soldier, the cooking of Food, the preparation of Diet for the Sick, the duties of Nurses and attendants, and the organization and general management of Hospitals," has been prepared, published and circulated by the Commission, and has proved highly useful and beneficial to the service.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

Special mention is due to noble friends of our cause in England and Germany, who have sent their contributions to us across the ocean, as an evidence of their sympathy with our Government and the armies of liberty. As will be noticed in the account of donations received, \$500 was sent from England; and through the Mayor of New York, Hon. George Opdyke, a large supply of the finest lint and linen bandages was received from Frankfort-on-the-Main.

TESTIMONIALS.

That the friends of the Western Commission may see how fully

its services have been recognized by the military authorities, and the medical department, and what assistance and co-operation have been extended to it in its labors, a few testimonials are here subjoined.

FROM MAJOR GENERAL HALLECK.

“WAR DEPARTMENT,
“*Washington, January 4, 1863.*

“I have been personally familiar with the long continued and faithful services of the Western Sanitary Commission and cordially recommend it to the confidence of the community, and to the co-operation of all officers of the army, in all respects, as far as the regulations of the service will allow.

(Signed,)

H. W. HALLECK,
General in Chief of the U. S. A.”

FROM MAJOR GENERAL SCHOFIELD.

“HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
“*St. Louis, June 1, 1863.*

“My direct and intimate acquaintance with the Western Sanitary Commission throughout the campaign in South-west Missouri and Arkansas, and at St. Louis, since the rebellion began, enables me heartily to concur with the above testimonial of Major General Halleck. The members of the Commission and its agents have worked with energy and efficiency, and the whole Western Department owes them a debt of gratitude which cannot easily be repaid.

(Signed,)

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Major General.”

FROM MAJOR GENERAL GRANT.

Extract from a letter.

“HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
“*April 7, 1863.*

“It is not necessary for me to assure you of my appreciation of the good done both by the United States and the Western Sanitary Commissions, and my desire to facilitate their operations, in every way consistent with the interests of the service.

I am, Sir, your very obedient serv't,

U. S. GRANT,
Major General.”

FROM THE SURGEONS OF THE ARMY OF THE SOUTHWEST.

CAMP AT HELENA, ARKANSAS,
December, 1862.

The undersigned, Surgeons of Divisions and Regiments, take this method to express their hearty approval of the Western Sanitary Commission, and to testify to its great efficiency and usefulness in the Army of the Southwest. Without the comforts it has been so prompt to afford, at all times, whether in the camp or in the field, much and great suffering must have resulted. * * The Agent of the Commission, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, has cheerfully furnished, for the use of the sick and wounded, everything in his possession. Joining this army just after the battle of Pea Ridge, he came with his abundant stores most providentially, and through all dangers, trials and vicissitudes he has remained constantly with us, and ever faithful to his mission.

(Signed,) J. B. D. IRWIN, *Medical Director*,
ISAAC CASSELBERRY, *Div. Medical Director*,
C. G. PEASE, *Post Surgeon*,
J. C. DICKEN, *Late Post Surgeon*,
D. L. MCGUGIN, *Surgeon 3d Iowa Cavalry*,
And twenty-nine other Surgeons.

FROM MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI,
St. Louis, March 1st, 1863.

From personal acquaintance with the work of the Western Sanitary Commission, I heartily concur in the testimonials of the Surgeons of the Army of the Southwest. Among the pleasant and grateful recollections of the campaign in the Southwest, was the arrival of Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, the Agent of this noble Commission, just after the battle of Pea Ridge, (where the wounded were so unprovided for,) with his abundant sanitary stores and supply of stimulants. In the destitute condition of our hospitals, it seemed like a providential interposition in our behalf. From that time onward this Commission has kept its excellent and faithful agents in the field, and contributed largely to the health of the troops, the alleviation of suffering, and the saving of life. I am glad of the opportunity to commend its President, its members, and its agents to the confidence and co-operation of the people of the loyal States.

(Signed,) S. R. CURTIS, *Major General*.

FROM SURGEONS RUSSELL AND CARPENTER.

My thanks are due to the Western Sanitary Commission, for the valuable aid rendered to the wounded from the battle of Prairie Grove, by its agent, Mr. F. R. Newell.—[*Dr. Ira Russell*.

Mr. Newell's sanitary stores were a perfect God-send to our poor fel-

lows, many of whom had lost nearly all their clothing on the battle field. He made a judicious distribution of his shirts, drawers and other articles among the most needy. He also placed at our disposal two ambulances, without which we could hardly have carried on the hospital. Enough cannot be said of an institution, such as the Western Sanitary Commission, which performs such deeds.—[*Dr. Carpenter's Report, after the battle of Prairie Grove.*]

RELATIONS OF THE WESTERN AND UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSIONS.

The Western Sanitary Commission commenced its work as an independent organization, under a military order giving it authority to act. From the beginning to the present time it has labored in its own sphere, and by its own methods, with what degree of success, economy and usefulness, this report will furnish some means of judging.

Its relation to the United States Sanitary Commission has always been, and still is, that of a friendly co-worker in the same great cause, its labors being altogether with the western armies, and its contributions coming from friends, in all parts of the loyal States.

It has not been thought best that it should become a subordinate branch of the U. S. Commission, but rather that it should continue as at first constituted, having its own methods, economies, and agencies, and acting without the restraints of a superior body, according to the needs of the western armies and the opportunities afforded it—willing, at all times, and happy to co-operate with the Washington Commission.

At an early period it proposed a plan of co-operation and a division of labor, which was renewed, the past winter, to the General Secretary of the U. S. Commission, during his visit to the West, offering to take the whole field west of the army of Gen. Rosecrans, and keep it supplied with sanitary stores, and to send monthly reports, for record, to the U. S. Commission at Washington. But no satisfactory response has been received, and meanwhile the two Commissions continue their work as before, sometimes occupying the same field, and laboring together for the same objects. Perhaps the whole work can be done as well in this manner as in any other, by a two-fold agency and friendly competition; nor do we find fault with it. But it is obvious that a division of work, in accordance with the proposal made, would be

the more economical plan, and, judging from previous experience, equally efficient. The United States Commission might still retain its desired nationality of working and do as much as at present, by directing supplies to our depôts, from which its Hospital Inspectors could draw whatever stores they need; and all the purposes of a *general record* at Washington would be served by the monthly statements of receipts, expenditures, &c., as above suggested. But, at all events, no conflict or rivalry between the two Commissions will be permitted, by either of them, to occur.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF SANITARY STORES.

The Government furnishes transportation for sanitary goods to both Commissions alike, through the Medical Directors, at the places of shipment and delivery, in accordance with a General Order from the War Department. It is advised, therefore, that all shipments should be directed to one or the other of these Commissions, either of which will make a faithful distribution of the supplies entrusted to its care. In sending to the Western Commission, the direction should be to JAMES E. YEATMAN, its President, at St. Louis, with the name and place of the donor marked on the corner of the box or package, and the freight to this city prepaid, if convenient, sending generally by freight lines instead of by express.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Western Sanitary Commission desires, in this report, to return its grateful acknowledgments to numerous friends and contributors, in all the loyal States, and to the various associations that have co-operated in its labors.

To the several Commanding Generals of this Department, Major Generals Fremont, Halleck, Curtis and Schofield, also to Major Generals Grant and Sherman, to General R. Allen, Col. Meyers, Col. Haines, and Col. L. B. Parsons, of the Quartermaster's Department, and to the Medical authorities of this Department, especially to the Assistant Surgeon General, Col. R. C. Wood, and to Medical Directors, Surgeons De Camp, Mills and Magruder, the Commission is greatly indebted for their generous direction and co-operation in the great work in which it has been engaged, in promoting the health, the welfare and efficiency of the great Union Army of the West.

The Commission also gratefully acknowledges the valuable services of Mr. R. R. Hazard, jr., of Newport, R. I., who gave over six months of his time, while on a visit in St. Louis, to constant labors in this important work, for a considerable part of the time fulfilling the duties of Acting President of the Board.

LADIES' UNION AID SOCIETIES.

Especial notice is due to the Ladies' Union Aid Society of this city, by reason of its intimate connection and co-operation with this Commission. From its establishment, August 1, 1861, to June 1, 1863, it has distributed 253,782 articles, consisting of hospital shirts, drawers, slippers, socks, canned fruits, books, chairs, air beds, &c. Over 35,000 hospital garments have been made, gratuitously, by the ladies of this Society, or cut and given out to be made by soldiers' wives, from materials furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission. It has received in money, since its organization, \$20,900.77, and expended \$20,809.54. This association of ladies has also a small department, under its own direction, at the Benton Barracks Hospital, for the preparation and supply of delicate food for the very sick, as prescribed by the Surgeons. Its members have also performed a large amount of useful labor in the hospitals, especially during the period preceding the appointment of Hospital Chaplains, in the visitation of the sick and wounded, in religious reading and conversation, and in offices of personal kindness, cheering the desponding, and directing the thoughts of the suffering and dying to the truths of religion, the presence and aid of the Saviour of men, and the hope of heaven.

Several other associations of the same kind exist in St. Louis and vicinity, that have labored most faithfully in the same devoted manner; and to these and the society at Kirkwood, the Commission is under many obligations for their important aid; but the limits of this report, and the want of statistics, render it impossible to enter into particulars.

Others in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, have also contributed largely to the supplies of the Commission. The total amount of work performed by these associations, by which the Western armies have been so abundantly furnished, will never be known, and would exceed belief.

At the present time, it may be safely said that no army in the world was ever in a better sanitary condition, or more abundantly

provided with everything for the preservation of health and the recovery of the sick, than the armies of the West. The Medical Department of the army, and the loyal citizens everywhere, seem to have resources quite inexhaustible.

CONCLUSION.

The friendly associations that have been created by these mutual endeavors to serve our beloved country and its noble defenders, in this period of trial and danger, the generous sacrifices that have been made by rich and poor, the numerous instances of liberality and private beneficence that have come to the knowledge of this Commission, the patriotic and unselfish devotion with which the honorable women of our land have labored for the relief of suffering and the encouragement of our armies, and the heroism of our citizen soldiery, in leaving their homes for the battle field, and enduring wounds and sickness and the dangers of the camp and field, for the sake of country and liberty, have filled the hearts of those who have been engaged in this holy cause with cherished memories of the good and true, and established friendships that will grow stronger with time, and be revived and perpetuated in eternity; and, above all, they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have aided, to the extent of their ability, in preserving the existence and authority of our National Government, and in perpetuating the blessings of liberty.

JAMES E. YEATMAN,

President.

C. S. GREELEY,
J. B. JOHNSON,
GEO. PARTRIDGE,
WM. G. ELIOT.

J. G. FORMAN,

Cor. Secretary.

